

REMARKS

Claim 11 has been replaced by new claim 15 which recites a force-applying mechanism for moving the linkage from its first (door closing) position to its second (door open) position and then back to the first position. That force-applying mechanism includes the motor 50 which moves the linkage from its first position to its second position to push the door open. In the disclosed preferred embodiment the force-applying mechanism includes a spring 58 for moving the linkage back to its first position (although alternatively the motor could perform that function).

Claim 15 also recites that the linkage is returnable by the force-applying mechanism from the second position to the first position independently of the door.

In the Speer reference (U.S. 4,365,442), the linkage, i.e., the door-opening linkage constituted by the motor 32, is not moved by a force-applying mechanism from the second position (passage-open) to the first (passage-closing) position independently of the door, because the linkage 32 relies upon a force of the door closer 36 in order to be retracted. Note that Speer's motor 32 is a single-acting motor (column 2, line 40), so it can only push the door open to the Fig. 4 position. In order to be retracted to its first (passage-closing) position, the linkage 32 must be pushed by the door closer 36.

With this arrangement the opening mechanism in accordance with the invention is utilized in combination with a conventional door closer such that the opener opens the doors [sic] and, upon releasing the door for closing, the closer operates to close the door in a conventional fashion. (Speer, sentence bridging columns 2 and 3)

Since the only force-applying mechanism for moving Speer's linkage from the second position to the first position is defined by the door closer 36, and since that

force is transmitted to the linkage via the door, it will be understood that the linkage 32 is not moved by a force-applying mechanism from the passage-opening position to the passage-closing position independently of the door as recited in the final paragraph of claim 15.

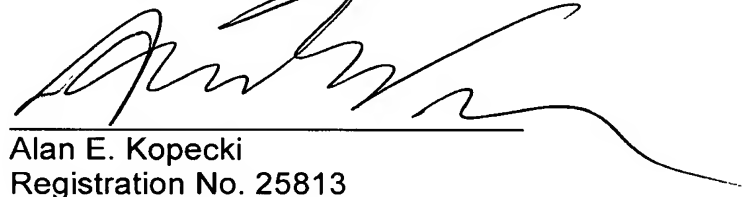
Accordingly, it is submitted that the application has been placed in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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